



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN SENTENCED FOR INSURANCE, INVESTMENT SCHEME

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man with a history of defrauding senior citizens was sentenced in federal court today for devising a scheme to defraud an elderly man of his personal investments, and for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Kevin A. Supple, 38, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this afternoon to 10 years in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Supple** to pay \$150,545 in restitution. Graves added that the court granted the government's motion for an upward departure from the federal sentencing guidelines.

"**Supple** defrauded an elderly man, who recently lost his wife, out of his life savings," Graves said. "This isn't the first time **Supple** has preyed on senior citizens. In fact, he has 13 criminal felony convictions on his record – primarily for similar frauds against elderly victims. The only way to protect future victims is to keep him locked away from the rest of society."

Graves added that **Supple** was on probation for five of those convictions while he perpetrated the fraud for which he was charged in federal court.

Supple has previously received sentences of two, three and five years for similar fraudulent conduct. "In the past," Graves said, "repeated prison sentences have not been sufficient to deter **Supple** from continuing his criminal behavior. By imposing a more severe sentence than the 78-months maximum under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the court sent a strong message that this defendant is responsible for his actions."

On Nov. 24, 2004, **Supple** pleaded guilty to three counts of an indictment and one count contained in a separate information.

By pleading guilty to the three-count indictment, **Supple** admitted that he devised a scheme to defraud another person by influencing that person to make changes to his insurance policy and cash out other financial investments at the time his wife became ill and required long-term care treatment.

During the course of the scheme to defraud, between April 5, 2002, and Feb. 13, 2004, **Supple** represented himself as an agent with Equitable Life and Casualty Insurance Company. **Supple** made contact with Equitable on behalf of his victim and instead of representing himself as an insurance agent, he falsely represented himself as his victim's grandson.

Acting as an insurance agent, **Supple** caused his victim to make substantial changes in his life insurance policy. **Supple** told his victim that he would negotiate an upgrade with Equitable for the long-term care insurance policy. In furtherance of the scheme, **Supple** convinced his victim to cancel his insurance policy all together between Sept. 4 and Sept. 9, 2002, and instead invest the money with **Supple**. **Supple** told the victim that he would match every \$10,000 investment with \$5,000. The victim canceled the insurance policy and received a refund from the company in the amount of \$62,331.60.

After cashing out the insurance policy, **Supple** convinced his victim to also liquidate his investments with Putnam Investments between Nov. 25 and Nov. 27, 2002. These investments totaled \$19,109.81.

Once the victim cashed out the insurance policy and investment account with Putnam, **Supple** caused the victim to draft personal checks from four different bank accounts made payable to him in amounts totaling \$131,436.15.

Supple cashed the personal checks and secured the proceeds for his own personal benefit instead of investing the proceeds as he told his victim that he would. Specifically, **Supple** pleaded guilty to committing mail and wire fraud on three occasions including Sept. 4 and 5, 2002, and Nov. 27, 2002.

Supple also pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm, a charge that was contained in a separate information. By pleading guilty to the firearms charge, **Supple** admitted that he was in possession of a Lorcin .380-caliber pistol on Sept. 16, 2004, when he was arrested on the indictment. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Supple** was convicted of three counts of felony theft and one count of making a false writing in 2003, two counts of unlawful business practices in 1996, and four counts of unlawful business practices and two counts of stealing in 1994.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. It was investigated by the Raytown, Mo., Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow